



# SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF STREET VENDORS

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## ABSTRACT

Street vendors are an integral component of informal sector and form a social and vital part of the social and economic life of a country .Street trade creates jobs not only for millions of street vendors worldwide. They contribute significantly to the GDP of an economy ,they earn their livelihood through their own meagre financial resources and sweat equity. . But still street vendors have poor socio-economic conditions. In light of the above facts, the present paper focuses to analyse the socio-economic conditions and the critical issues of street vendors. For which Anchal Gram Panchayath was selected for study.

**KEYWORDS:** livelihood ,socio-economic, street vendors, unorganized.

## INTRODUCTION

Over 94 percent of India's working population is part of the unorganized sector. In local terms, organized sector or formal sector in India refers to licensed organizations, that is, those who are registered and pay sales tax, income tax, etc. These include the publicly traded companies, incorporated or formally registered entities, corporations, factories, shopping malls, hotels, and large businesses. Unorganised sector, also known as informal sector or own account enterprises, refers to all unlicensed, self-employed or unregistered economic activity such as owner manned general stores, handicrafts and handloom workers, rural traders, farmers, etc.

As distributors of affordable goods and services, street vendors provide consumers with convenient and accessible retail options and form a vital part of the social and economic life of a city. Street vending as an occupation has existed for hundreds of years, and is considered a cornerstone of many cities' historical and cultural heritage. Street trade creates jobs not only for millions of street vendors worldwide, but also for other occupations, such as porters, trolley operators, and night watchmen. In some cities, street traders account for as much as 20% of total employment

## LITERATURE REVIEW

However, literatures (Surabhi Singh, Rose Mary Viswanath 2012) have stated many problems of street vendors regarding their social protection, credit accessibility, role of govt. authorities in addressing their problems. Debdulal Saha stated the working condition of street vendors in Mumbai. National policy on urban street vendors (2009) have also pointed out the major problems and recommended policies on street vendors' livelihood conditions. A study conducted by Sharit K Bhowmik examined the problems faced by the street vendors and the possible means of overcoming these. Another study conducted by Sharit K Bhowmik and Debdulal Saha (2012) for NASVI pointed out the working and living conditions of street vendors in ten cities in India. The study of Debdulal Saha intends to understand the condition of working life of the street vendors in Mumbai and also highlights the role of member based organisation or unions.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Street vendors constitute an important segment of urban population. Street vendors are those who unable to get regular jobs in the remunerative formal sector on account of their low level of education and skills. They earn their livelihood through their own meagre financial resources and sweat equity. In light of the above facts, the present study focuses to analyse the socio-economic conditions and the critical issues of street vendors. For which Anchal Gram Panchayath was selected for study.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Street vendors are an integral component of informal sector and form a social and vital part of the social and economic life of a country. Financial inclusion is the delivery of financial services at affordable cost to sections of disadvantaged and low income segments of society. But these segments of the society experiences financially exclusion. Financial exclusion is often related to more complex social exclusion issues, which makes financial literacy and access to basic financial services even more complex. Thus there is a need to strengthen these segments especially, street vendors. Hence the proposed study is an attempt to enquire into the socio-economic conditions of street vendors.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study was carried out with the following specific objectives:

- To understand the socio-economic conditions of street vendors.

## SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study is restricted to the socio-economic conditions of street vendors of Anchal Gram Panchayath Kollam District in Kerala. To study the socio-economic conditions, variables like education, income, duration of working hour, health, housing category, sources of working capital were selected for the study.

## METHODOLOGY

The Study was designed as descriptive in nature based on the survey method. Both primary and secondary data was used for the study.

## PRIMARY DATA

The primary data was collected from 80 respondents by means of structured interview schedule. As the population is undefined, the non-probabilistic method of sampling-convenient sampling method was used to collect data for the study.

## SECONDARY DATA

The secondary data was used to establish a theoretical framework for the study. Secondary data has been collected from various books, magazines and from websites.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Majority of the respondents (40 percent) belonged to the age group 40 – 60
2. It was found that 75 percent of the respondents are male and the rest are female.
3. The street vendors do not possess the skills of education to enable them to find better paid jobs in the formal sector and they have to settle in the unorganized sector.
4. The study shows that majority of the sample respondents are illiterate.
5. The survey indicates that majority of respondents earn only a meager income to meet their needs.
6. Majority of the sample respondents have been in street vending for more than 15 years. This shows that they were not able to find jobs in formal sectors and thus they are confined to informal sector.
7. Most of the street vendors work for 8 to 12 hours a day which shows that they are trying hard to earn their livelihood.
8. The study reveals that 35 percent of the sample respondents have their own house and 60 percent street vendors stay in rented house and 5 percent in open air as they are migrated from different places.

## LIMITATIONS

- The study was restricted only to Anchal Gram Panchayath, Kollam District, which may not give the actual representation of the universe.
- The universe is quite large and sample size is quite small to have genuine rep-

resentation.

- The non-cooperative attitude of some of the respondents was also a limitation.

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